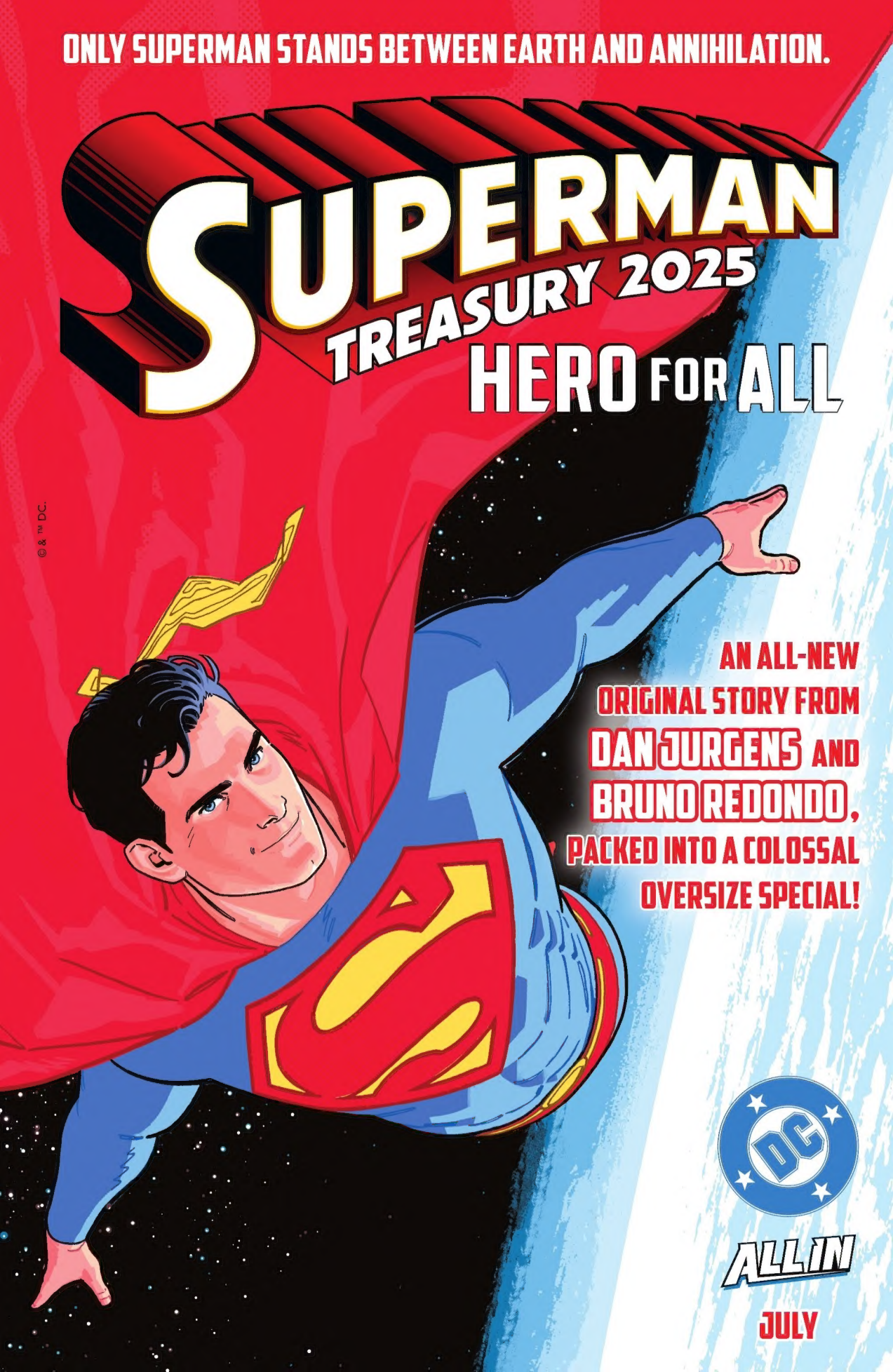
ABSOLUTE
SUPERMAN
DC
ALL IN
15+ TEEN+
9
AARON
SANDOVAL
OSSIO
ARREOLA

ONLY SUPERMAN STANDS BETWEEN EARTH AND ANNIHILATION.

SUPERMAN TREASURY 2025

HERO FOR ALL



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AN ALL-NEW ORIGINAL STORY FROM DAN JURGENS AND BRUNO REDONDO, PACKED INTO A COLOSSAL OVERSIZE SPECIAL!

DC ALL IN

JULY

HGGHK!
MULTIPLE ENTRY WOUNDS!
SUCTION! NEED SUCTION RIGHT NOW!
FORCEPS!
PULSE IS THREADY. BP DROPPING.
WE NEED TO DO A THORACOTOMY. WHERE'S THE RIB SPREADER?
FORGET IT. EVEN IN THIS STATE, WE COULDN'T SPREAD HIS RIBS WITH A TOW TRUCK.
ANESTHESIA HAS NO EFFECT. HE'S FEELING EVERYTHING WE--
I'VE GOT IT. RETRIEVING NOW.
SIX YEARS AGO, MY HOMEWORLD TRIED TO KILL ME.
THROUGH A MIRACLE, I SURVIVED.
NOW IT'S TRYING AGAIN.
GAAARHRRGH!
HOLY HELL.
WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
ONE DOWN. TWO TO GO.
RADIOACTIVE SLIVERS OF MY HOME PLANET. FORGED INTO BULLETS. TEARING ME APART FROM THE INSIDE.
KRYPTON IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON KILLING.

OH GOD, THIS BULLET'S UNSTABLE! IT CAN'T HOLD ITS FORM! IF WE DON'T GET THOSE OTHERS OUT NOW, WE DON'T GET THEM OUT AT ALL!
THEY'RE WEDGED BETWEEN THE RIBS, NEAR THE LUNGS. WHERE'S THE ULTRASOUND?
EVERY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IN THIS ROOM WAS JUST BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS. WE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING IN THERE.
I CAN.
GIVE ME THE CLAMPS.
I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
ALL AGENTS, ACTIVATE MAXIMUM EAR PROTECTION--
HRRAGGGH!
VEINS PUMPING LAVA. MOUTH FULL OF ASH. SCREAMS FROM INSIDE MY OWN INNARDS. BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS.
KRYPTON IS DYING ALL OVER AGAIN. IN ME.
GNNGHH... DON'T...DON'T THINK I CAN DO THAT AGAIN...WITHOUT... PASSING OUT.
SOL?
SYSTEMS REBOOTING. KAL... I AM SOR--SYSTEMS REBOOTING.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN.
YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

BRING THE BOX.
PRIMUS, YOU CAN'T! OTHER THAN TRIGGERING THE BOOMS, WE'VE BARELY BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT CAN--
DO IT OR HE DIES!
I HEAR MOTHER'S VOICE FROM FAR AWAY. SMELL FATHER COMING HOME FROM WORK, SWIRLING WITH THE DUST OF THE MINE.
DOG WANTS ME TO CHASE HIM THROUGH THE PURPLE FIELDS.
HEY, STAY WITH ME. WE HAVE SOMETHING HERE THAT CAN HELP YOU. THOUGH IT MAY FEEL STRANGE.
JUST... KEEP YOUR EYES ON ME, ALL RIGHT?
OMEGA WILL PROVIDE.
TRIGGERING THE MACHINE. STAND BACK.
WAIT... WHAT IS...
IF I DIE, THE LAST VESTIGE OF MY HOME DIES WITH ME. THAT'S WHAT THIS BULLET IS TRYING TO KILL.
SO I FIGHT TO DO WHAT I FAILED TO DO BEFORE.

I FIGHT TO SAVE KRYPTON.
AND THIS TIME...I DO NOT FIGHT ALONE.
PING
PING
PING
PING
NG
GGAAAAII-
RRRRGGGH!

LAZARUS CORP PROCESSING CENTER.
AGENT LOIS LANE. YOU WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.
WHO AM I?
AND WHY AM I HERE?
YOU'RE RA'S AL GHUL. RECLUSIVE FOUNDER AND CEO OF LAZARUS CORP.
YOU NEVER SHOW YOUR FACE IN PUBLIC, SO YOU WANT ME TO BE ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED THAT YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO TELL ME...
...THAT DESPITE MY ARREST IN KANSAS, DESPITE MY BETRAYAL OF LAZARUS...
...I'M NOT BEING FIRED.
I'M NOT GOING TO JAIL. I WON'T BE DISAPPEARED DOWN ONE OF YOUR OIL WELLS.
THOUGH I'M SURE THOSE OPTIONS WERE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.
NEITHER AM I ALLOWED TO QUIT. YOU'RE HERE TO REMIND ME THAT I WORK FOR LAZARUS. FOR YOU.
AND THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE.

BRILLIANT! I COULD NOT HAVE SAID IT BETTER MYSELF! NOW LET US--
TO ENCOURAGE MY ALLEGIANCE, YOU'RE GOING TO REMIND ME THAT YOU LITERALLY OWN MY FATHER'S LEGS. THAT YOU CAN DISABLE HIS LAZARUS PROSTHETICS WITH THE FLIP OF A SWITCH.
YOU'LL DO SO FLIPPANTLY. WITH A SMILE. BECAUSE THAT ALWAYS MAKES THE THREAT MORE UNSETTLING, DOESN'T IT?
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, RA'S. MAY I CALL YOU RA'S?
YOU MAY CALL ME--
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW THE WORLD HAS CHANGED, RA'S, BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T MET HIM YET.
ONCE SUPERMAN'S STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU...
...YOU'LL REALIZE JUST HOW SMALL YOU'VE BECOME.
BRAINIAC DID NOT EXAGGERATE WHEN IT COMES TO THE SHARPNESS OF YOUR ACUMEN, AGENT LANE. BUT I FEAR I MUST CORRECT YOU ON ONE MINOR DETAIL.
DISAPPOINT ME AGAIN, CHILD, AND I WILL NOT, AS YOU SAY, "FLIP A SWITCH."
RA'S AL GHUL WILL SUMMON YOUR FATHER...AND PUT THE PATHETIC CRIPPLE OUT OF HIS MISERY.
WITH MINE OWN HANDS.
RRAARGGGH!

DO IT.
OPEN MY THROAT, AND I PROMISE YOU, I WILL *RISE AGAIN* ON THE MORROW.
CAN *YOU* SAY THE SAME?
LAZARUS MEANS LIFE, AGENT LANE.
YOU HOLD YOUR *FATHER'S* IN YOUR HANDS.
REMEMBER YOUR LOVE FOR HIM AS YOU FULFILL YOUR DUTY.
AND BRING ME MY *SON.*

WEEKS LATER.
KARACHI, PAKISTAN.
LAZARUS CORP PEACEMAKING EMBASSY.
MAKE ITSELF
FREEDOM IN PROGRESS
PEACE WILL NOT MAKE ITSELF
BOOM
BREACHED! TIGHT FORMATION! ON ME!
OMEGA MEN! TERRORISTS ARE INSIDE THE--
GHNGH!
YOU SLAUGHTER INNOCENTS AND CALL US TERRORISTS?! LAZARUS MEANS LIES!
DEATH TO TECHNO-FASCISTS EVERYWHERE!

PRIMUS.
YOU SAVED MY LIFE. AND I'M GRATEFUL.
BUT IF YOU INSIST ON USING DEADLY FORCE...
...YOU'LL WISH YOU'D LEFT ME TO DIE.
NEVER, SUPERMAN, NEVER.
OMEGAS! SUPERMAN HAS THE POINT!
TRY TO KEEP UP!
ACTUALLY, I'D RATHER YOU KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.
I'M USED TO WORKING ALONE.
ALONE.
ALONE.
ALONE.

I FIND THOSE REMARKS OFFENSIVE KAL-EL.
SORRY, SOL, I DIDN'T MEAN YOU.
YOU NEVER HEED MY WARNINGS, BUT I WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER THEM NONETHELESS.
PEACEMAKERS! OUT OF THE TANKS! NOW!
YOU MUST BE MORE CAREFUL HERE. IF YOU EXERT YOURSELF TOO STRENUOUSLY, YOU COULD REOPEN YOUR WOUNDS.
SSSSS
SSSSS
SOL, I THINK WE'VE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO SAY...THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS BEING CAREFUL ON THIS PLANET.
AND AT THIS POINT...
...ALL I AM IS WOUNDS.
SSSSS
GAAH!
GH!

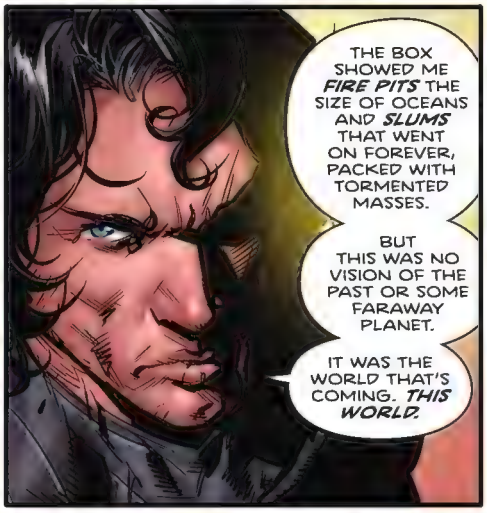
PEACEMECHS HAVE THE SUPER-INSURGENT IN CUSTODY!
LAZARUS MEANS JUSTICE FOR RADICALS, YOU FLYING FREAK!
AHHNGGH!
YOUR WOUNDS ARE BLEEDING. ACTIVATING SOLAR FLARE MODE
KAL, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU CANNOT ALLOW THE OMEGA MEN TO USE THAT INFERNAL DEVICE ON YOU AGAIN.
DO YOU HEAR ME, KAL-EL?
AAAIGGGGH!
YOU MUST NEVER GO NEAR THAT BOX!

EARLIER.
DECOMMISSIONED LAZARUS CORP DRILLING PLATFORM.
NOW SERVING AS COVERT OMEGA MEN COMMAND CENTER.
BOOM
LAZARUS
TEAM FIVE AWAY, TO ADMINISTER AID IN MYANMAR.
MAY THE ONE TRUE OMEGA BE WITH THEM.
IN ALL HIS WRATHFUL GLORY.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT? THAT BOX?
ONLY WHAT PEOPLE SAY, WHICH ISN'T MUCH.
ONE GUY TOLD ME IT FELL FROM SPACE. SOMEBODY ELSE SAID IT WAS DUG UP HERE ON EARTH, WHERE IT'D BEEN BURIED FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.
ALL PRIMUS SAYS IS THAT IT COMES FROM GOD.
THOUGH HER VERSION SOUNDS PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM ANY GOD I EVER HEARD OF.
IT'S CALLED A FATHER BOX.

"IT *TOLD* ME ITS NAME.
"WHEN IT WAS REMOVING THE FINAL BULLET FROM MY CHEST."

THE BOX IS *ALIVE?* DID IT SAY ANYTHING ELSE?
NOT WITH WORDS. IT SPOKE...WITH *FIRE.* I SAW A WORLD ERUPTING WITH FLAMES.
ANOTHER *PLANET,* YOU MEAN? HOLD ON, ARE YOU AN *ALIEN?*
AM I ASKING TOO MANY QUESTIONS?
SUPERMAN?

I WISH EVERYONE...WOULD STOP *CALLING* ME THAT. THAT ISN'T MY NAME.
OH, DUDE, I'M SORRY. WITH THE *S,* EVERYBODY JUST ASSUMED... WHAT'S YOUR PREFERRED NAME?
PROTECT YOUR SECRETS KAL


THE BOX SHOWED ME *FIRE PITS* THE SIZE OF OCEANS AND *SLUMS* THAT WENT ON FOREVER, PACKED WITH TORMENTED MASSES.
BUT THIS WAS NO VISION OF THE PAST OR SOME FARAWAY PLANET.
IT WAS THE WORLD THAT'S COMING. *THIS WORLD.*

YOU SAW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T STOP LAZARUS CORP.
PRIMUS SAYS THEIR BOSS IS A CERTIFIED *MANIAC.*
THE KINDA GUY WHO UNLEASHES A DEADLY VIRUS SO HE CAN SELL THE CURE. MANIPULATES THE WEATHER TO CAUSE DROUGHT AND STARVATION, CULLING PEOPLE LIKE HERDS OF SHEEP.

AND YOU *TRUST* HER, THIS PRIMUS?
MAYBE SHE GOES TOO FAR SOMETIMES.
I'VE KILLED JUST AS MANY OF THE ENEMY AS THEY'VE KILLED OF ME. AND I HOPE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
BUT AFTER RUNNING WITH THIS CREW FOR A FEW MONTHS AND SEEING WHAT I'VE SEEN...YOU CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...
...IS "TOO FAR" REALLY FAR *ENOUGH?*

WHO ARE YOU, JIMMY OLSEN?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE AN OMEGA MAN?

EH, MY STORY'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
I WAS HAVING ONE OF THOSE LATE-NIGHT EXISTENTIAL CRISES ABOUT THE STATE OF THE WORLD...YOU KNOW, DOOMSCROLLING ON THE TOILET...WHEN I SUDDENLY REALIZED...
...SOMEDAY I'M GONNA HAVE A KID WHO'LL LOOK UP AT ME AND ASK, "DAD, WHAT DID YOU DO WHEN THE WORLD WENT TO DOO-DOO?"

AND I WANNA BE ABLE TO TELL 'EM...I DID SOMETHING, YOU KNOW?
I DIDN'T JUST SIT AROUND STARING AT MY PHONE. I WENT TO WHERE PEOPLE WERE FIGHTING, FIGHTING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
AND I FOUGHT TOO.

HEH...BUT THE THING IS... RIGHT AFTER I JOINED...PRIMUS SHOWED ME THE INTEL SHE'S GATHERED.
ON LAZARUS AND THEIR BRAINIAC ALGORITHM. THEIR LONG HISTORY OF ATROCITIES.
PLUS ALL THE CRAZINESS THAT'S SUPPOSEDLY HIDDEN IN AREA 41. THE GOVERNMENT'S PROJECT OLYMPUS. THE WORLD'S RICHEST PSYCHOPATH, SOME GUY THEY CALL THE JOKER.

AFTER THAT...WELL, THE FIRST THING I DID WAS GET A VASECTOMY.
YOU ASK ME IF I TRUST PRIMUS?
IF I WAS YOU... WHOEVER YOU ARE...
...I WOULDN'T TRUST ANYBODY ON THIS WHOLE ROTTEN PLANET.

OLSEN! SUIT UP!
YOU'RE GETTING ONE MORE CHANCE TO RISE ABOVE THE RANK OF ALPHA!

WORD FROM PAKISTAN.
THERE WERE PROTESTS IN ORANGI TOWN, CALLING FOR THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF THE PEACEMAKER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRE THERE.
CHRISTOPHER SMITH.
FOR THE ORANGI 23
"LAZARUS LABELED THE PROTEST A TERRORIST THREAT.
DEFUND THE PEACE MAKERS
DEFUND THE PEACEMAKER
THOSE WHO AREN'T IN CRITICAL CARE ARE BEING HELD AT A LAZARUS FACILITY IN KARACHI. THE OMEGA MEN ARE GOING TO LIBERATE THEM.
I WANT ALL AVAILABLE OMEGAS READY TO BOOM IN ONE MINUTE!
KAL, DO NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT--
I'M COMING WITH YOU.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, SMALLVILLE?
I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING. ESPECIALLY YOU.
BUT I OWE YOU A DEBT. AND WHERE I COME FROM, WE PAY WHAT WE OWE. WITH OUR HANDS.
BUT I WON'T ALLOW KILLING.
BOY, ARE YOU ON THE WRONG PLANET. WHERE WAS IT YOU SAID YOU WERE FROM AGAIN?
RIGHT. WELL, LET'S GET MOVING. THE GOD BOX SAVED YOU FOR A REASON. THE OMEGA HAS PLANS FOR YOU, SUPERMAN.

NOW.
"AND HIS WILL MUST BE DONE."
GGGROOARGHH!
THE FATHER BOX. KAL-EL. THAT DEVICE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
SOL, I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU LIKE THIS. YOU SOUND ALMOST... FRIGHTENED.
I AM A VESTIGE OF THE KRYPTONIAN LUMINARIUM, IMBUED WITH LIMITED SENTIENCE BY LARA-EL. I AM NOT CAPABLE OF SUCH EMOTION.
IT IS YOU WHO SHOULD BE FRIGHTENED, KAL-EL. OF WHAT THIS CLEARLY CORRUPTED WORLD MIGHT DO TO YOU.
OF THE SORT OF MAN IT MAY BE TURNING YOU INTO.
KAWOOSH

SOL...YOU SAVED MY LIFE. YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT OF KRYPTON.
BUT I'M GETTING AWFULLY TIRED OF PEOPLE *TELLING* ME WHO I AM. WHEN I DON'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF.
SO DO ME A *FAVOR*, WILL YOU?
AND *SHUT THE HELL UP!*
AS YOU WISH, KAL-EL. DISABLING VOICE MODE.
HOLY CRAP, SUPE... I MEAN...*PAL?* YOU ALL RIGHT?
THE PRISONERS! SPREAD OUT AND SEARCH!
NO NEED.
I'VE FOUND THEM ALREADY.
I WAS TOO HARD ON SOL. HE'S RIGHT TO BE WORRIED.
EVERY DAY I SPEND UNDER THIS SUN, I GROW STRONGER. *ANGRIER.*
AND FURTHER *REMOVED* FROM WHO I WAS. THAT SHEEPISH CHILD OF THE REDLANDS.
A BOY WHO SAW HIS FAMILY MURDERED, AS SURELY AS IF SOMEONE PUT A GUN TO THEIR INNOCENT HEADS.
OH NO.

AND KEPT PULLING THE TRIGGER.
JUSTICE FOR T'ORANGI

PEACE AT ALL COSTS! KILL THEM ALL!
PRIMUS! WE'RE SURROUNDED! OPEN A BOOM AND GET US OUT OF HERE!
THEIR MURDERER FOLLOWED ME ACROSS SPACE. TO CONTINUE ITS AGE-OLD KILLING SPREE.
BUTCHERS! BUTCHERS AND COWARDS!
EVEN WITH AN ENTIRE PLANET IN ITS GULLET, ITS HUNGER FOR BRUTALITY AND INHUMANITY REMAINS INSATIABLE.
I'LL GIVE YOU PEACE, YOU BLOODY BASTARDS!
A PEACE THAT NEVER ENDS!
KRYPTON IS DEAD, DESTROYED BY ITS OWN HUBRIS AND GLUTTONY.
PRIMUS!
SUPERMAN, DO SOMETHING!
LONG LIVE KRYPTON.
BLAM

B O O M
I HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM THESE PEOPLE.
GRAB WHAT YOU CAN CARRY! WE BLOW THE REST! THIS BASE ISN'T SAFE ANYMORE!
WHAT ABOUT THE WOUNDED?
IF THEY CAN WALK, THEY CAN COME. IF THEY CAN'T... GOD AWAITS THEM ON THE SEAFLOOR.
I'LL GO TO THE TOP OF THEIR TALLEST MOUNTAIN. OR MAYBE I CAN JUMP TO THE MOON. SOME PLACE NO ONE CAN FIND ME.
SOL...
NO ONE WHO CAN POSSIBLY NEED ANYTHING FROM ME.
SOL...I HESITATED. I ALMOST DIDN'T...
NO ONE SCREAMING FOR ME TO SAVE THEM. JOIN THEM. LIBERATE OR AVENGE THEM.
SOL?
NO ONE LOST AND IN NEED OF SALVATION.
NO ONE ELSE LIKE ME.
NOW DO YOU SEE THE TRUTH?!

LAZARUS WILL EXTERMINATE ANYONE WHO STANDS IN THEIR WAY!
YOU DON'T FIGHT SOMETHING LIKE THAT BY PULLING YOUR DAMN PUNCHES!
YOU WERE SENT HERE FOR A REASON, SUPERMAN!
NO, YOU...YOU DON'T GET TO...
I SEE THE ANGER INSIDE YOU, BEGGING TO COME OUT! STOP HOLDING BACK THE VOLCANO!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME... WHY...WHY I WAS...
STOP PRETENDING TO BE THIS NAIVE BOY, SOFT AS KANSAS COTTONWOOD!
BE A MAN OF STEEL.
MARCH RIGHT BACK TO THAT BASE WITH ME. RIGHT NOW.
NO...
AND TOGETHER WE KILL EVERY PEACEMAKER WE FIND. LEAVE NOTHING BUT ASHES.
THEN WE TRACK DOWN CHRISTOPHER SMITH AND HANG HIS BODY FROM THE FLAGPOLE AT LAZARUS HEADQUARTERS, SO EVERYONE CAN SEE.
STOP...STOP TALKING... PLEASE...
ALL THAT LEAVES IS THE DEMON'S HEAD HIMSELF. RA'S AL GHUL. MOST EVIL MAN ALIVE.
KILL HIM. KILL HIM WITH ME, SUPERMAN.
ONE DEATH TO SAVE MILLIONS. BILLIONS.
NO! NO, I HAVE TO GO! AND...AND DON'T ANY OF YOU TRY TO FIND--
PRIMUS! IN ALL THE CHAOS, WE DIDN'T REALIZE! WE LEFT A MAN BEHIND!
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AGENT ALPHA!

"WE FORGOT ABOUT *OLSEN!*"
AH, EXCUSE ME. I HAVE *RIGHTS,* YOU KNOW? BECAUSE OF THAT...THAT CONVENTION IN GENEVA.
I'D, UH, LIKE ONE LAWYER, PLEASE. PREFERABLY ONE WITH GOOD REVIEWS.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHTS HERE, OMEGA MAN.
AAH.
EXCEPT THE RIGHT TO TELL ME *EVERYTHING* YOU KNOW ABOUT *SUPERMAN.*
WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
LAZARUS
NEXT: SUPERMAN UNLEASHED!

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

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RAFA SANDOVAL & ULISES ARREOLA *COVER*

LEIRIX, GERALD PAREL, DUSTIN NGUYEN
VARIANT COVERS

SUPERMAN, SON OF THE DEMON

ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS CONROY &
ANDREW MARINO
EDITORS

CHAPTER TWO

THE OMEGA MAN

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

PETER DAVID
1956-2025

Saddened to hear of the passing of the legendary Peter David. A brilliant writer whose work brought humor, heart, and a wholly original perspective to some of comics' most iconic characters. Whether it was his groundbreaking *Hulk*, sharp *X-Factor*, wildly fun *Spider-Man 2099*, or compelling runs on *Supergirl*, *Aquaman*, and *Young Justice* at DC Comics, Peter always found that extra dimension in a character's psyche, twisting expectations and deepening what was possible on the page.

He was one of a kind. Rest in peace, Peter, and thank you for all the stories.

—Jim Lee

As a fan of Peter's writing and comics prior to breaking into the comics industry, I had the extreme honor to first work with him on *Young Justice* at DC Comics for five years. I had so much fun working off his scripts. I learned so much from his writing. His unique sense of humor mixed with action, drama, and heart made every issue a pleasure to draw. He was a great supporter of my art. I was fortunate to create around 70 comics with Peter, and I am saddened we won't get to work together again. Thank you, Peter, for your friendship and support. Rest well.

—Todd Nauck [*Young Justice*]

Peter David was one of the greats.

When I was a young artist, just coming into the comics industry, I knew that the opportunity I was being given to work with Peter on *Aquaman* was huge. I knew his writing well and the impact he already had on all of fandom, and I knew that the comics world would be watching. I was, to put it mildly, nervous. Excited, ecstatic... absolutely psyched, but super nervous. I was immediately pulled into Peter's *Aquaman* scripts and forgot all of that. His writing style is so easily approachable; his ability to humanize otherwise two-dimensional characters made me as much a fan as I was a co-creator, all while Peter encouraged and reassured me along the way. He was a legend and a mentor. Fiction has lost a giant.

—Martin Egeland [*Aquaman*]

I've been lucky to work with some great writers. Peter David was one. Few creators revolutionize a character; he did it twice. I got to draw one: Aquaman. He was great to work with, fun stories, and always afforded me the leeway to put my own stamp on the visuals. It's all a collaborator can ask for. R.I.P.

—Jim Calafiore [*Aquaman*]

THE DC ALL IN SAGA CONTINUES!

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THE BIGGEST BATTLES YET START THIS FALL...

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC STUDIOS

SUPERMAN

INTERVIEW WITH NICHOLAS HOULT

Lex Luthor has been called many things: criminal genius, ruthless mogul, Superman's ultimate nemesis. But in James Gunn's *Superman*, Nicholas Hoult brings a new depth to the iconic villain, exploring his motivations with chilling sincerity and a surprising sense of purpose. We caught up with Nicholas to talk about his take on Lex, tapping into the mind of a man who sees himself as humanity's last line of defense.

When you first read the script, what jumped out at you?

I think the thing that jumped out of me was that it was a James Gunn script and, with his style of writing, you can instantly imagine what this film becomes. Having seen and loved a lot of his work, reading the script, I was like, 'Oh, fantastic. It's James Gunn's take on Superman's story and world and all these exciting characters and ideas that he's focused in on from the comics.' So, that's what was thrilling about it.

Who is Lex Luthor and what are his objectives in this film?

Apparently, Lex Luthor's the villain, which is sad for me because I love him as a character. I think that was one of the things that James has really nailed in this script. Lex is the bad guy for the story, but there's also a lot of things in his character and in his ideas and persona that maybe are right and aren't initially too crazy. As misguided as he might be, he kind of believes in his soul that he's doing the best thing for humanity, and can protect them.

What is it about Lex that has remained iconic over the decades?

He's timeless because he has evolved so much throughout the comics from that initial conception of him as the nemesis of Superman. That's what has been really fun for me as an actor—to go through and pick the different eras and then look and go, 'Okay, well, what's handy and what's useful for me playing this Lex in this script and this story?'

And when you see the film, I think there's something that's very truthful and honest about Lex, particularly in relation to the more recent comics, and although his execution is always perhaps questionable, a lot of Lex's core motives and beliefs are actually very understandable in terms of what he's trying to protect.

There's this idea that I've been hanging on to, this idea that Lex—as evil as he might appear—has this deep love for humanity, and sees himself almost as the only person smart enough and aware enough to protect them from what could potentially be a very dangerous scenario with this alien kind of taking over and being omni-powerful.

So, it's exciting. Whenever you're playing a villain, a bad character, whatever, what's fun about that for me is breaking them apart and going, 'Well, actually, no.' You make a few key little twists in your brain wiring, and then you realize that it makes complete sense where they're coming at it from.

DC STUDIOS

SUPERMAN

IN THEATERS JULY 11!

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP